



# DC- The Power to Change the World

## From Data Centers to Whole Buildings



**Brian T. Patterson - Chairman**  
Governing Member, EMerge Alliance  
General Manager, Armstrong World Industries

**Microgrid RD&D Workshop**  
**October 3, 2012**



# *The EMerge Vision:*

A close-up photograph of a human hand gently cupping a small, realistic model of the Earth. The globe shows blue oceans, green continents, and white cloud patterns. The hand is positioned centrally, with fingers visible on the right side and the thumb on the left. The background is dark and out of focus, with a warm, golden light source behind the hand, creating a soft glow around the globe.

*Creating  
The  
Enernet*

DOING FOR POWER WHAT THE INTERNET DID FOR INFORMATION NETWORKING

# The Current Reality

## PROBLEM: Mismatched AC and DC Power Distribution Requirements

### ENERGY SOURCES – MIXED AC & DC



AC/DC Site Generation



DC Photovoltaic



DC Wind Power



AC Line Power



DC Campus Fuel Cells



DC Power Storage



### ELECTRIC DEVICES – TYPICALLY DC



Electronic Lighting



HVAC Actuators  
Sensors & Controls



Electric Vehicles



AV/IT Devices



Data & Telecom Centers



Security & Safety

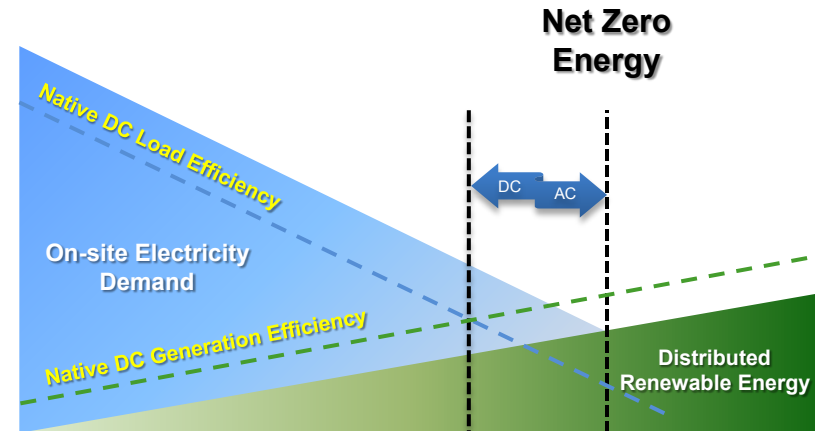
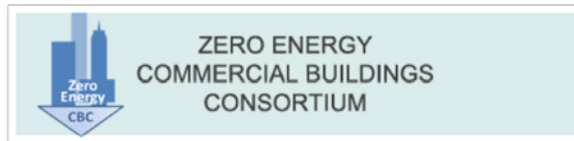
"80 percent of power used in commercial buildings must go through some form of power electronics so it can be converted to DC," - the Center of Power Electronics Systems at Virginia Tech.

**RESULT: Opportunity to Simplify- Improve Efficiency, Quality, Reliability, Control, Safety**

# Net Zero Energy Building Model

Buildings that produce as much energy as they consume

1. **Integrated design** and operations planning
2. **Site renewable** strategies get optimized using dc
3. **Energy Storage** in dc allow Grid independence
4. **System Intelligence** control, monitor, verify



*“DC power would fundamentally change the way power is distributed in commercial buildings...”*

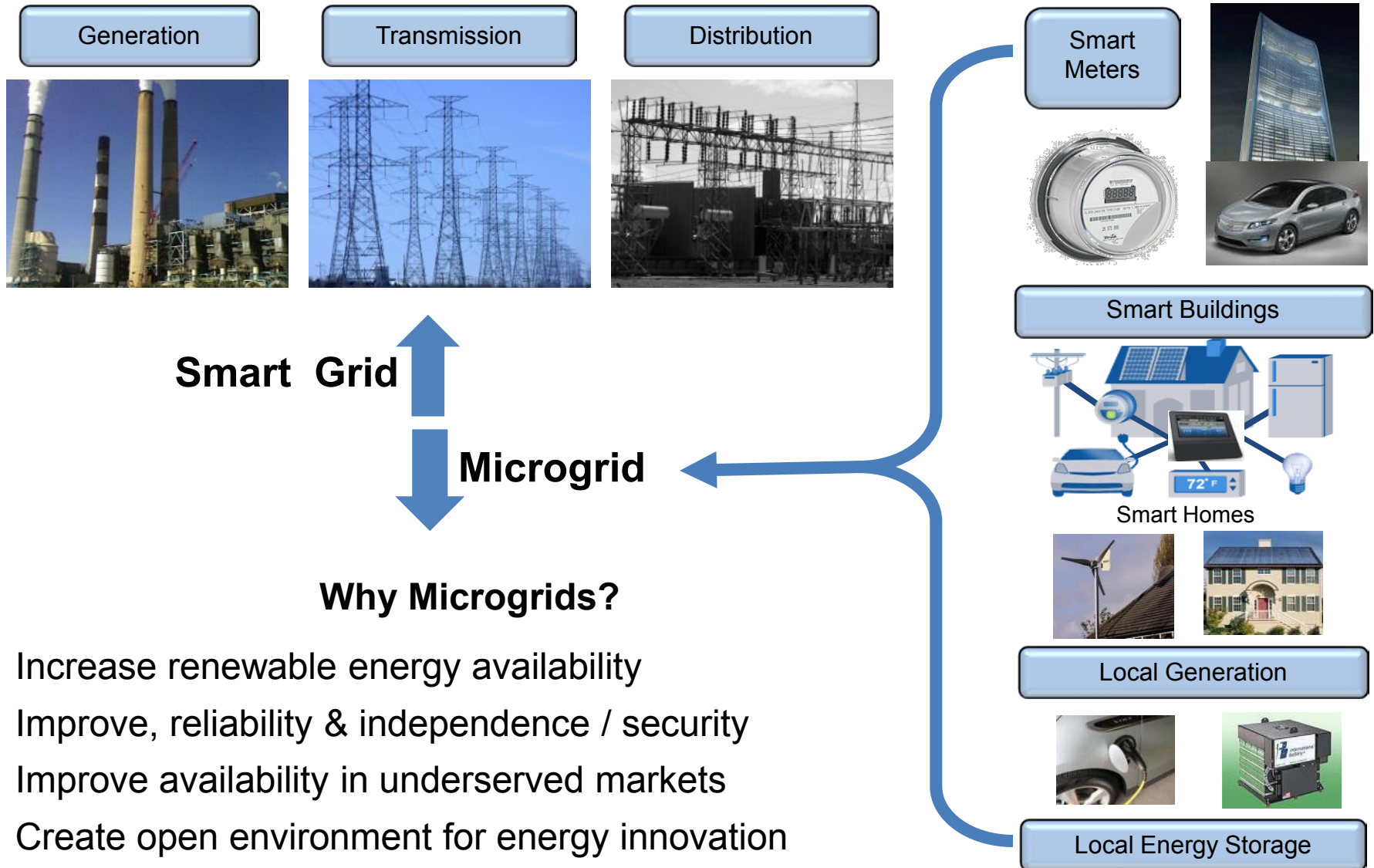
- 2012:** Begin DC Microgrid Demonstrations
- 2030:** All new commercial buildings
- 2040:** 50% of commercial building stock
- 2050:** All commercial buildings



Greater Philadelphia Innovation Center Energy Hub

# From Smart Grid to Microgrids

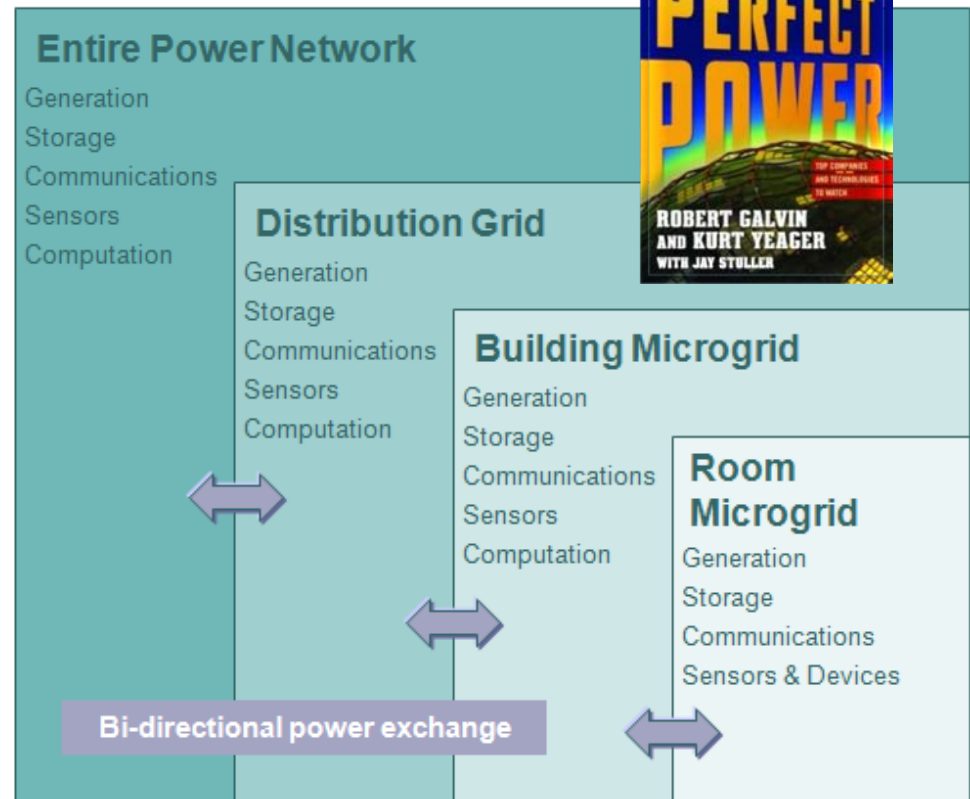
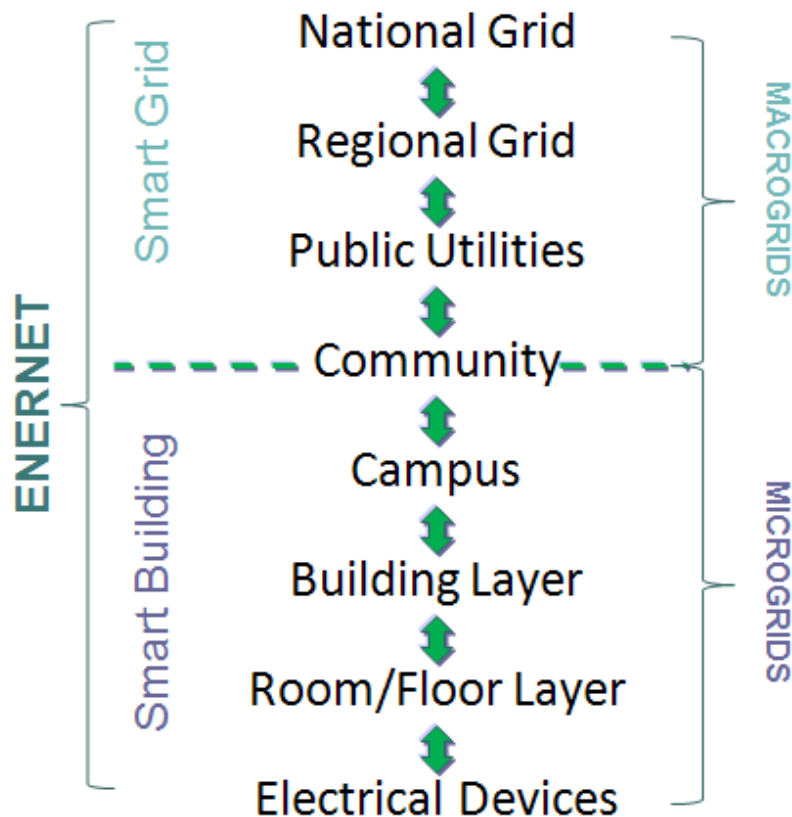
## The Need to Balance the Renewable Power Equation





# Smart Grid to Smart Buildings:

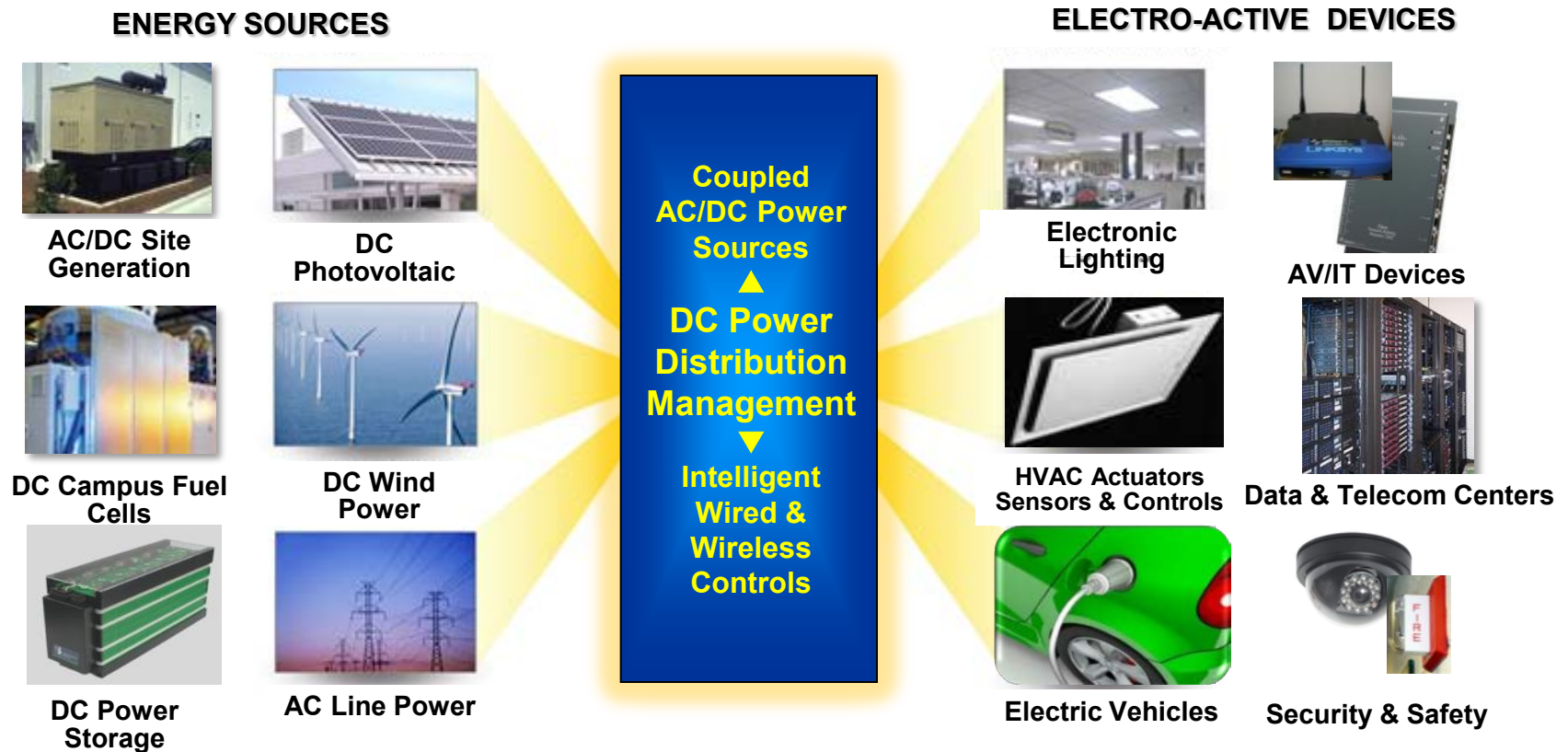
## Layered Microgrids at the Core of the New Energy Network



**En•er•net:** noun \en-ər-net\ : the Internet of powered things Bob Metcalfe

# The Desired State

A simplified AC/DC hybrid coupled power network



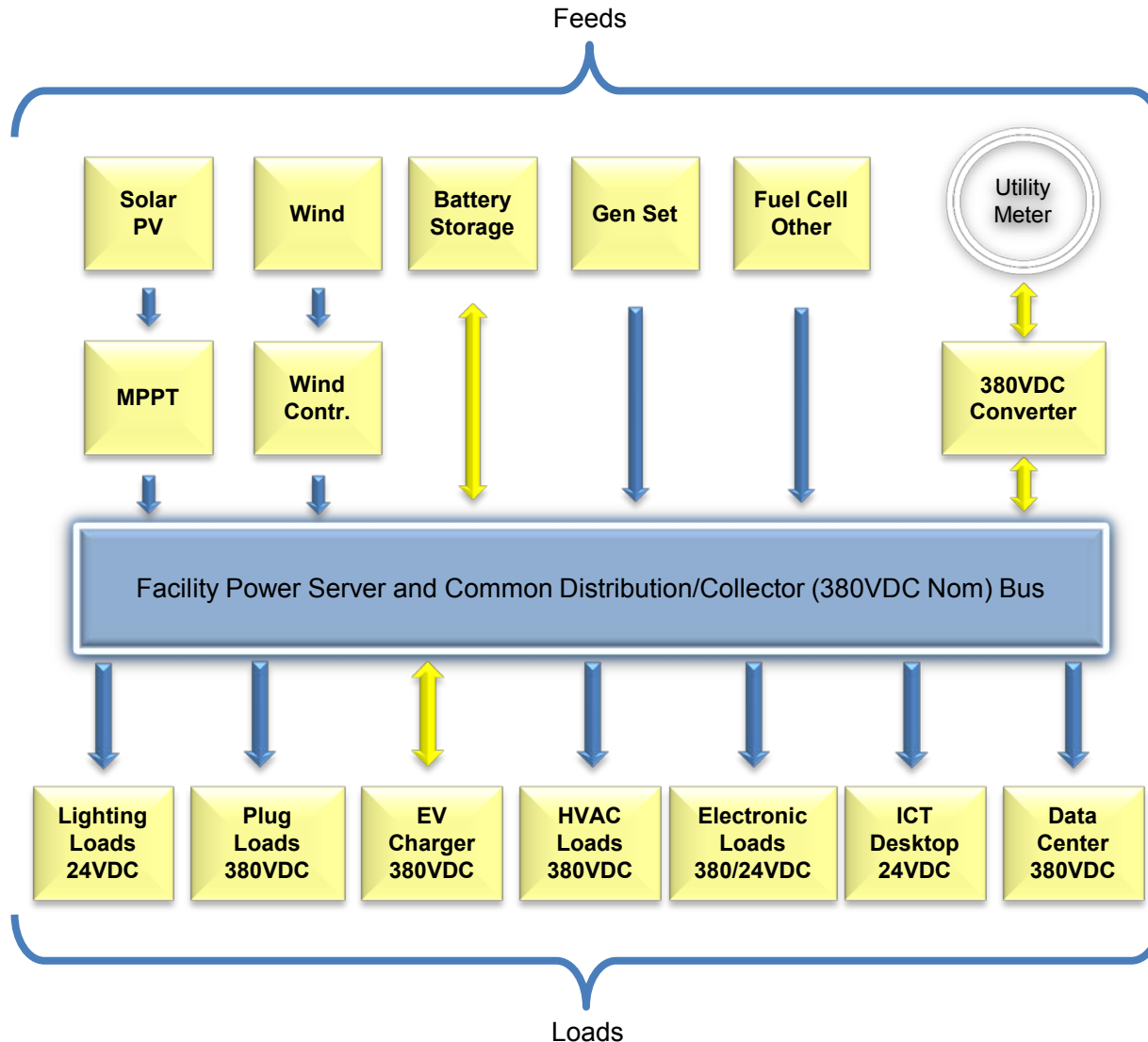
## OPPORTUNITY:

More flexibility, less energy, less capital, safer & more reliable

# Zero Net Energy Buildings (ZEB)

## DC Microgrid with Renewable & Alternate Distributed Generation

Slide Courtesy of 



### DC Microgrid may include :

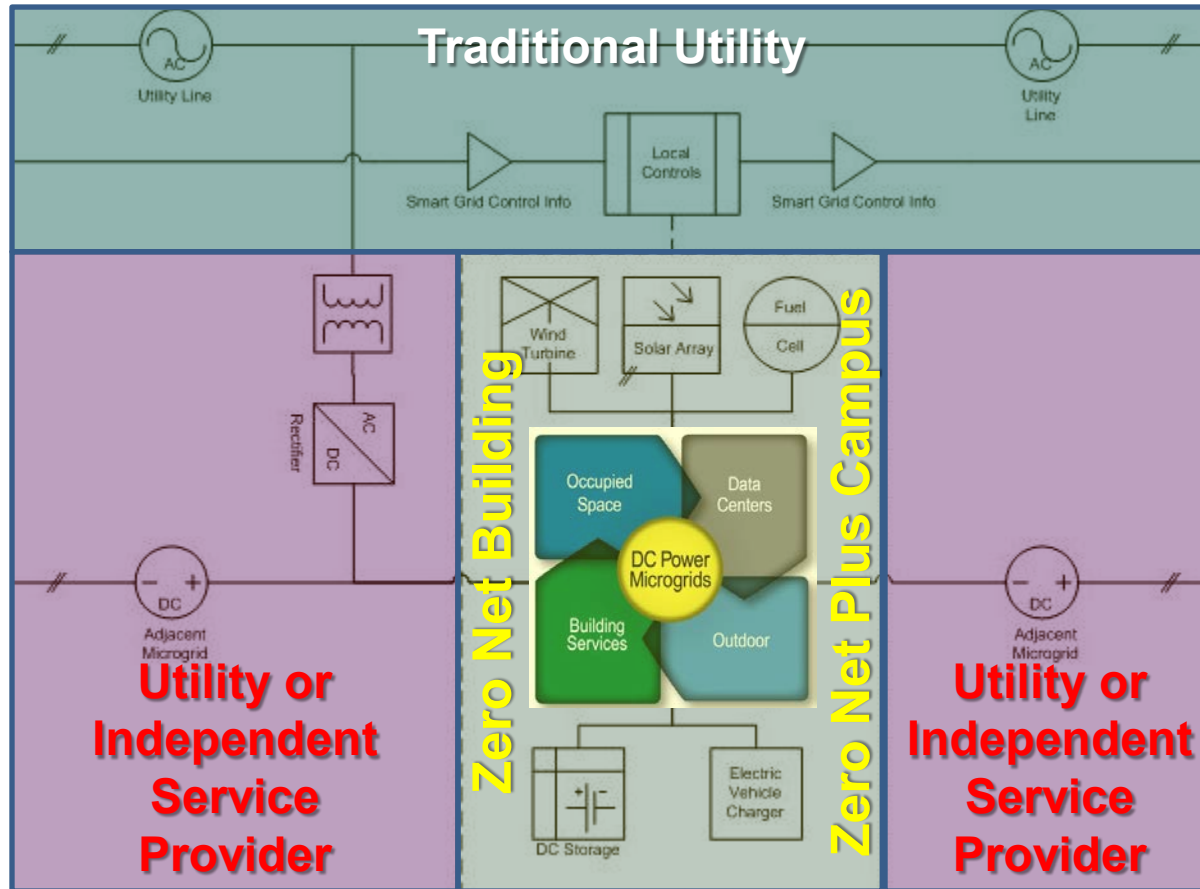
- Various AC and DC loads: fixed & plug and play loads
- Dispatchable generation: fuel cell or bio-fuel turbine.
- Non-dispatchable sources: solar PV and wind turbines.
- Energy storage, such as ultra-capacitors or batteries.
- Common Distribution – Collector Bus
- Management & Demand Response (DR) capability
- Ride-thru & Off-grid operation capability (islandable)



# Zero Energy Buildings (ZEB)

A ZEB driven network will look much like the Internet

## DC MICROGRID MODEL



# DC

## The Power to Change the World



***Enernet: Doing for power what the Internet did for information networking***

## DC-The Power to Change Buildings

### What is the EMerge Alliance?

- Not-for-profit 501c -Part 6
- Open application standards - DC platform
- Eco-system development and promotion
- 100+ Member organizations and growing!

### Who is the EMerge Alliance?

- Architects, Engineers
- Contractors/Builders/ Integrators
- Manufacturers - Service Providers
- Building Owners – Facility Managers
- National & Independent Labs
- Academic Institutions
- Codes & Standards Groups

### What is an EMerge Standard?

- Commercial Applications Standards
- Subordinate to safety, equipment standards
- Physical, electrical, operational interfaces
- Application definition - listing requirements of other standards (incl. IEC)

#### Vision: DC Microgrids in Buildings



# A Family of Open Power Standards for Hybrid DC Microgrids

## Vision: DC Microgrids in Buildings



Occupied  
Space

Data  
Centers

DC Power  
Microgrids

Building  
Services

Outdoor

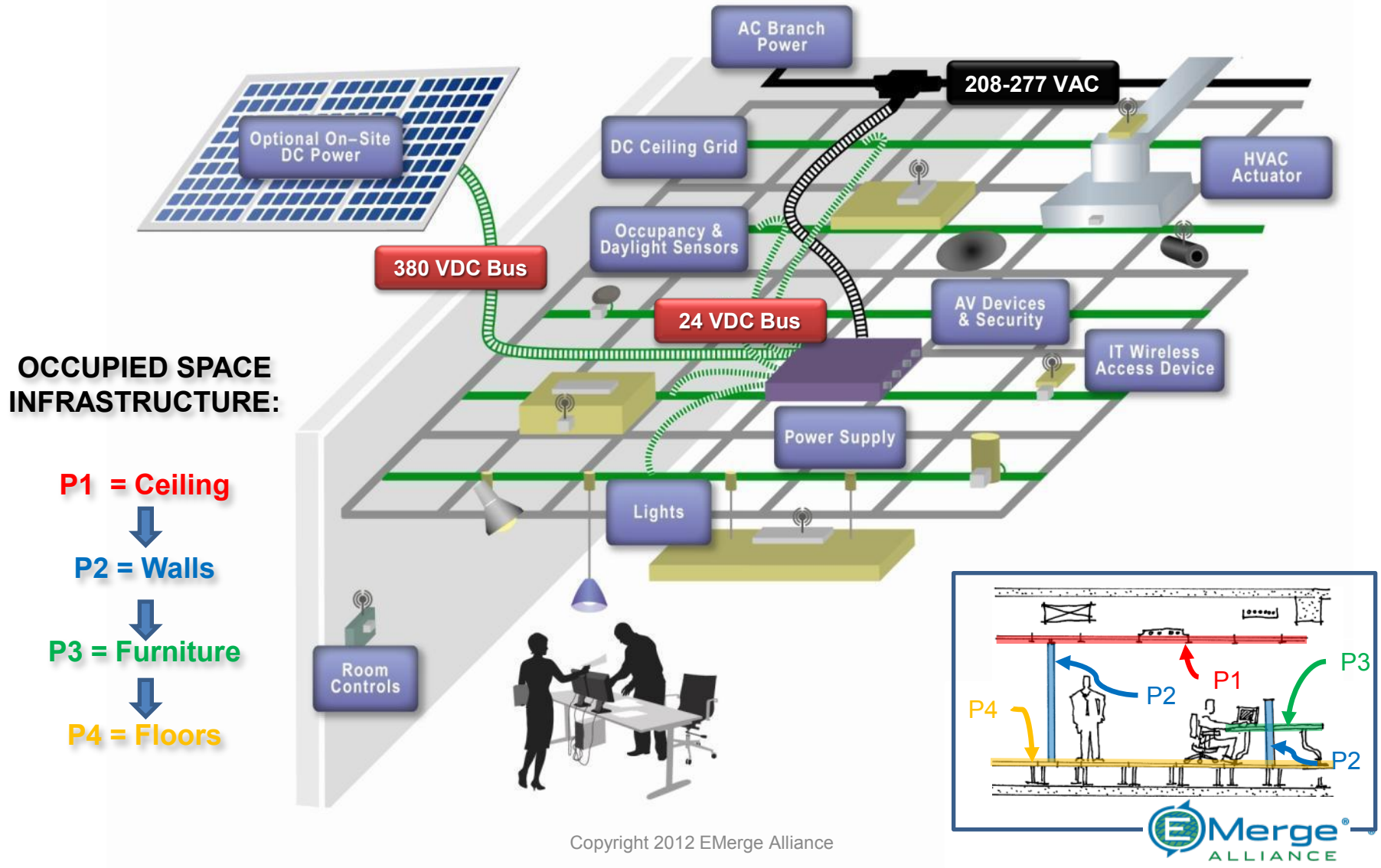




# 1st Standard: Occupied Space

*Developed for commercial interiors*

*Status: Version 1.0 Issued, Version 2.0 in Committee development*





# Product Example: Fluorescent Fixtures

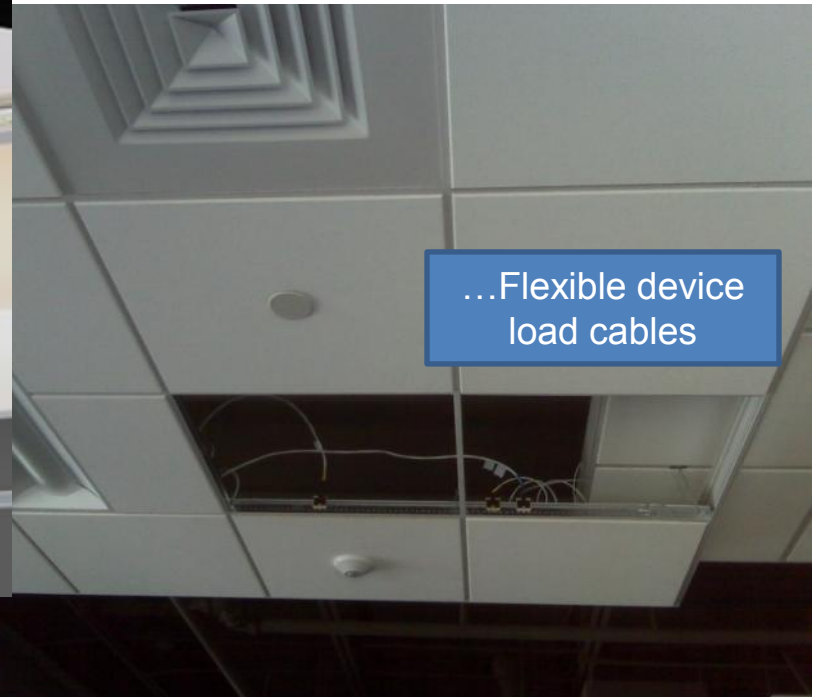
Current Designed & Listed Product



Change to DC Ballast



Add Device Load Connector/Cable Assembly



Slide Courtesy of Armstrong World Industries

- Direct DC input eliminates AC-DC conversion
- Can improve ballast efficiency by 10% or more
- Results in higher lighting system efficacy (light output per watt)
- Can improve ballast reliability significantly by eliminating HV inductors

# Product Example: LED Fixtures

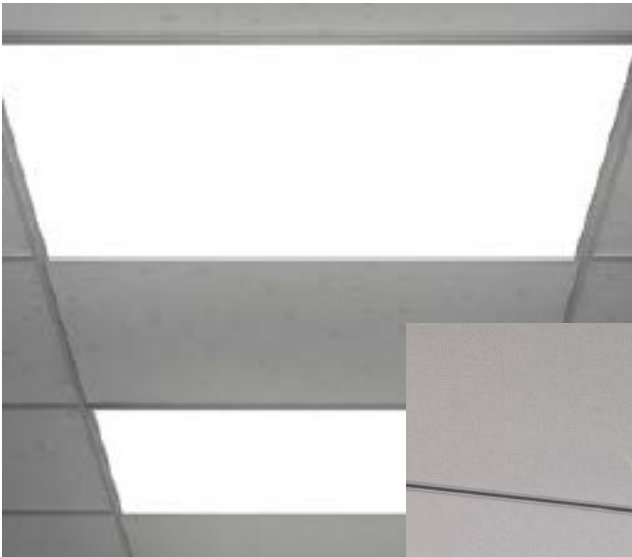
Current Designed & Listed Product



Change to Listed DC Driver



Add Listed Device Load Connector/Cable Assembly



Slide Courtesy of Armstrong World Industries

- Direct DC input eliminates AC-DC conversion
- Can improve driver efficiency by 10% or more
- Results in higher lighting system efficacy (light output per watt)
- Can improve driver reliability significantly by eliminating HV inductors

# EMerge Alliance Occupied Space Standard

## Example Site Applications in the Field

PNC Financial  
Headquarters Office  
Pittsburgh, PA



lauckgroup  
Architectural Office  
Dallas, TX



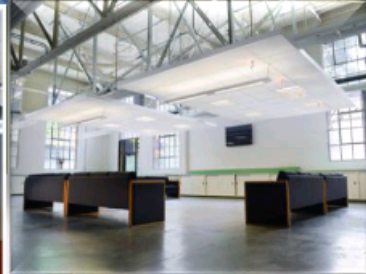
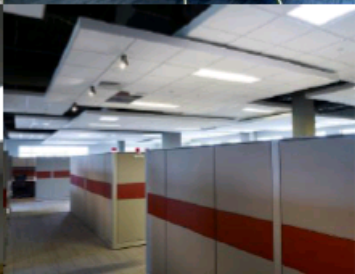
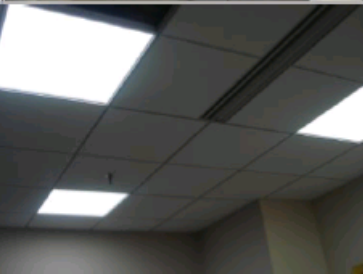
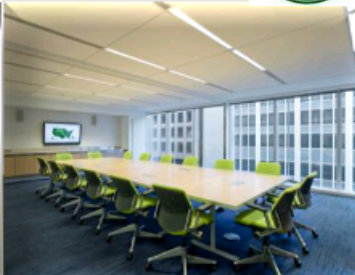
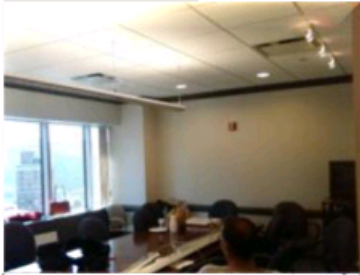
US Green Bldg Council  
Conference Rooms  
Washington, DC



Nextek Power  
NextEnergy Center  
Detroit, MI



UC San Diego  
Sustainability Center  
San Diego, CA



Southern Cal Edison  
Utility Services Office  
Irwindale, CA



Johnson Controls  
Headquarters Office  
Milwaukee, WI



Optima Engineering  
MEP Firm  
Charlotte, NC



LA Community College  
Trade Tech Campus  
Los Angeles, CA



CA Lighting Tech Center  
UC Davis Campus  
Davis, CA





# EMerge Alliance Occupied Space Standard

## Example of Net Zero Energy Building



PNC Financial Services Group Inc. announced it will debut its new net-zero energy bank branch during first quarter 2013 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

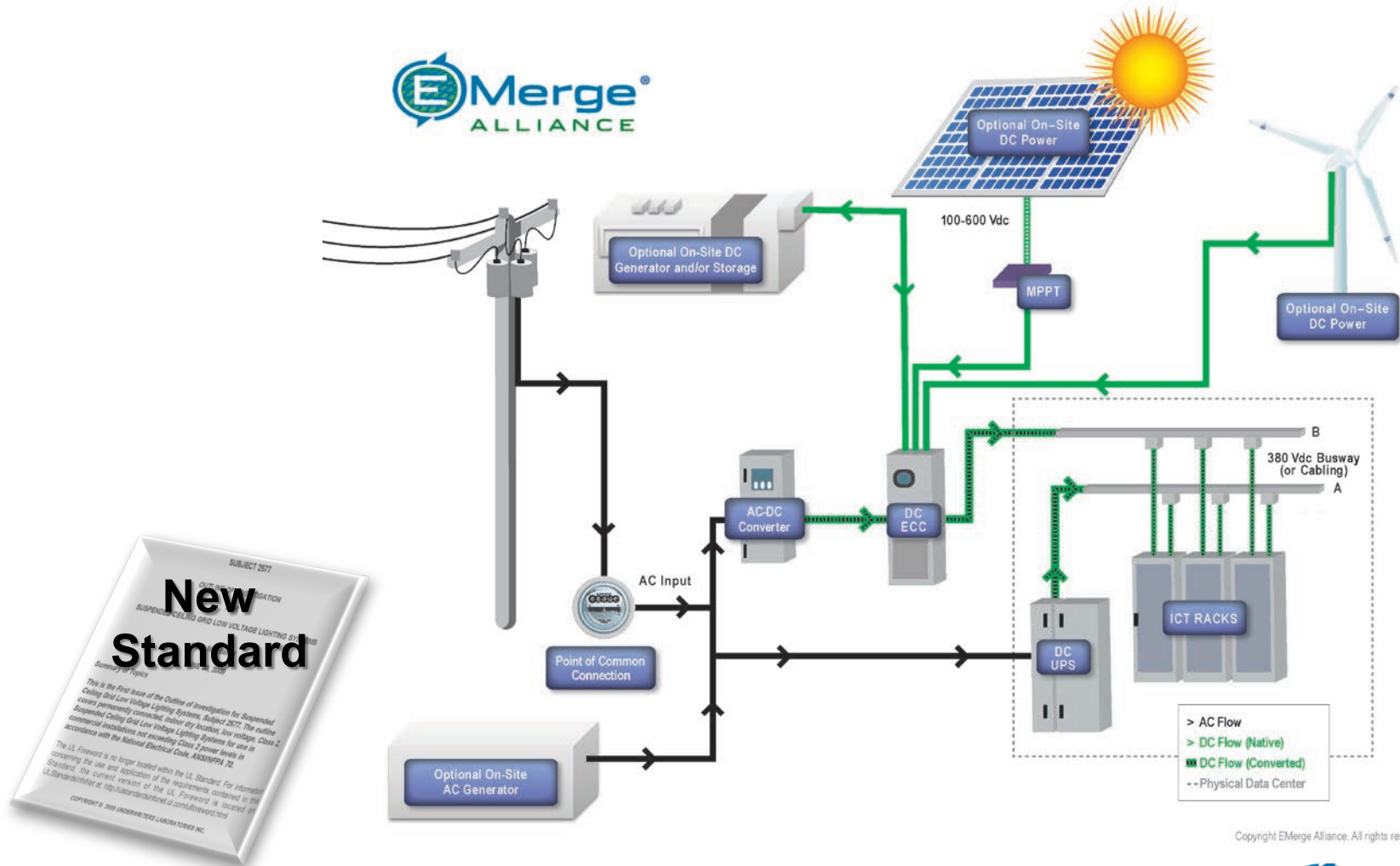
PNC expects the branch to exceed LEED Platinum certification and be its most energy efficient, using 50 percent less energy than a typical branch.

The bank features solar connected **DC FLeXZone™** ceilings that distribute native dc electricity to power efficient solid-state LED lighting and controls.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Standard: Data and Teleco

*Developed for 380VDC ICT System*

*Status: Complete - Pending Final Approval (October 2012 Release)*



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# VISA: Virtualization...is driving power density



Reported by VISA 380VDC Energy Lab – Ashburn, VA

**\*Average consolidation is 8:1**  
Average Maintenance Agreement for 1U Server is \$500  
Average Maintenance Agreement for 2U Server is \$750  
8:1 Consolidation yields \$3250 of savings per year

**\*Power Consumption**  
Average current 1U power supply is 675W  
Average current 2U power supply also 675W  
8:1 Consolidation yields a savings of 4725 Watts  
4 tons of CO2 are eliminated for every server virtualized, the equivalent to taking 1.5 cars off the highway.

**\*Application Value Density**  
8 racks into 1 = 8 Racks of Value in 1

# EMerge Alliance Data/Telecom Standard

## Applications in the Field

**EPRI/LBNL** - Electric Power  
Research Institute  
Lawrence Berkeley National Lab,  
California



**Duke Energy** data center in  
Charlotte, North Carolina



**Calit2** - California Institute for  
Telecommunications and Information  
Technology , UC San Diego



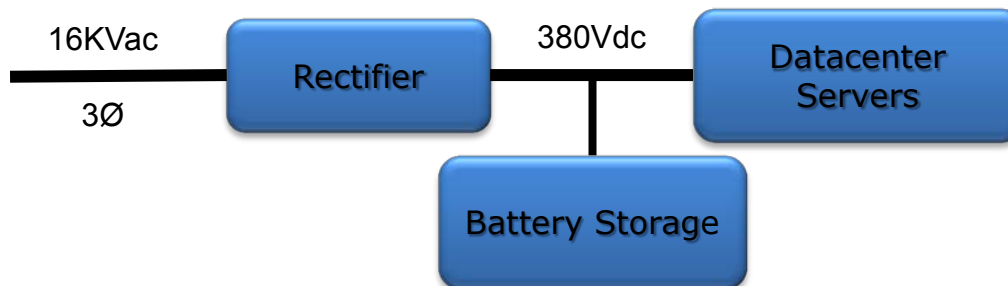
# EMerge Alliance Data/Telecom Standard

Applications in the Field



## Zurich-West 380Vdc Data Center

- ABB/Validus Power Distribution
  - In: 16KV AC
  - Out: 1MW @ 380Vdc
  - Battery Backup: 10 mins
  - Backup Generation
- 1,100m<sup>2</sup> of 3,300m<sup>2</sup> Vdc
- HP 2U, Blades & Storage Servers
- Demonstrated Benefits
  - 10% Better Energy Efficiency
  - 15% Lower Capital Cost
  - 25% Smaller Footprint
  - 20% Lower Installation Costs



Photos courtesy of Green-ch, ABB\* and HP\*

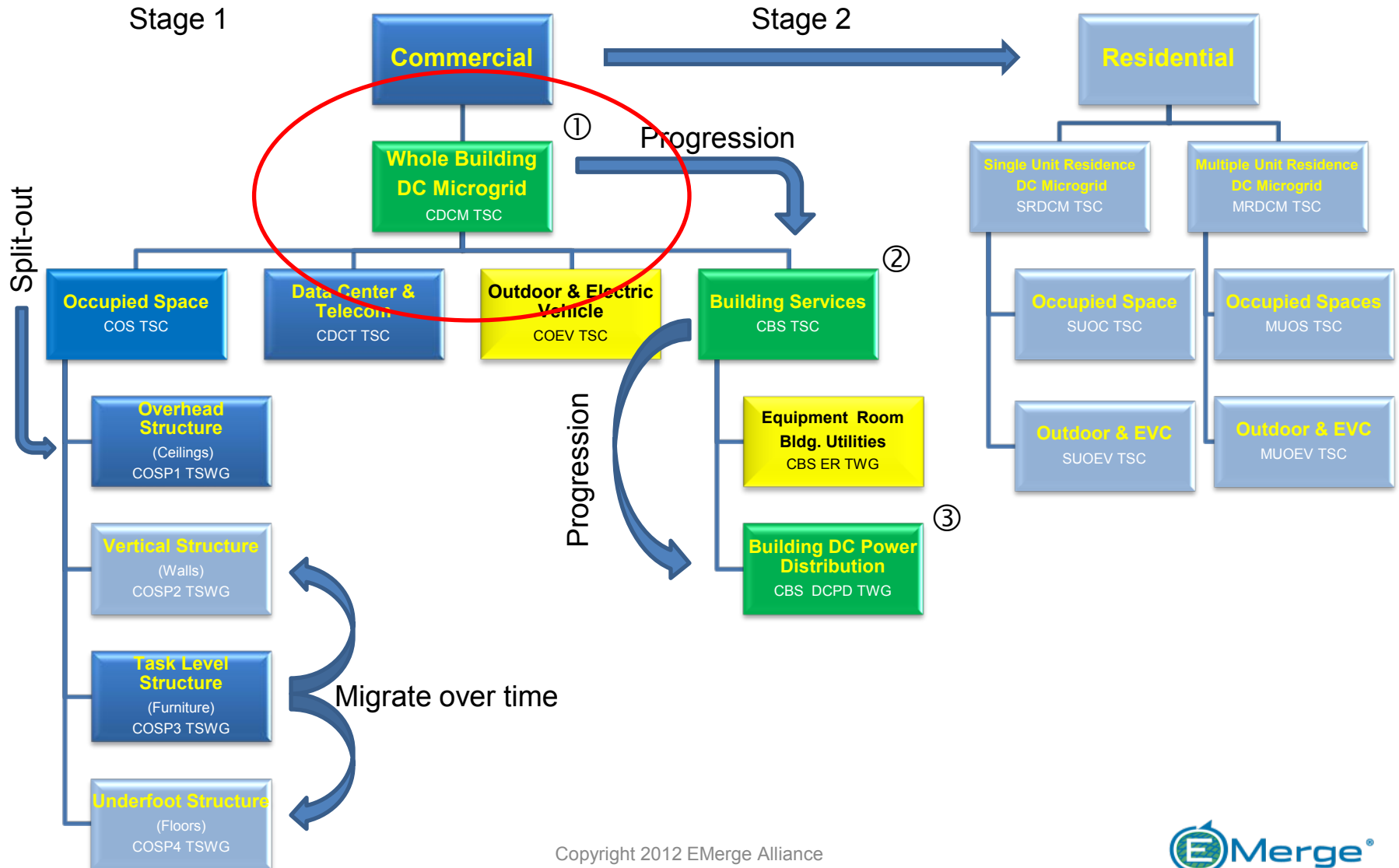
# OVER 200 DC SITES AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy of Electric Power Research Institute



# Application Standards Committee Roadmap





# Whole Building Hybrid DC Microgrid

## Ford's Deep Renovation Strategy Includes Multiple Stages



### MICHIGAN ASSEMBLY PLANT - DC GRID

(Plan)

EXISTING  
PLANT  
AC GRID



POWER  
SUPPLY  
AC/DC

PHASE 1



POWER  
SUPPLY  
AC/DC

PHASE 2

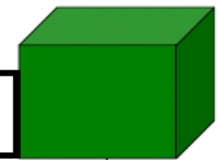
NEW 380 VDC GRID



Isolated  
DC/DC  
Converter

Smaller Solar Array  
(10 to 50 kW)

Charge  
Controller



Battery

Inverter/  
Charger

PHASE 3 (TBD)

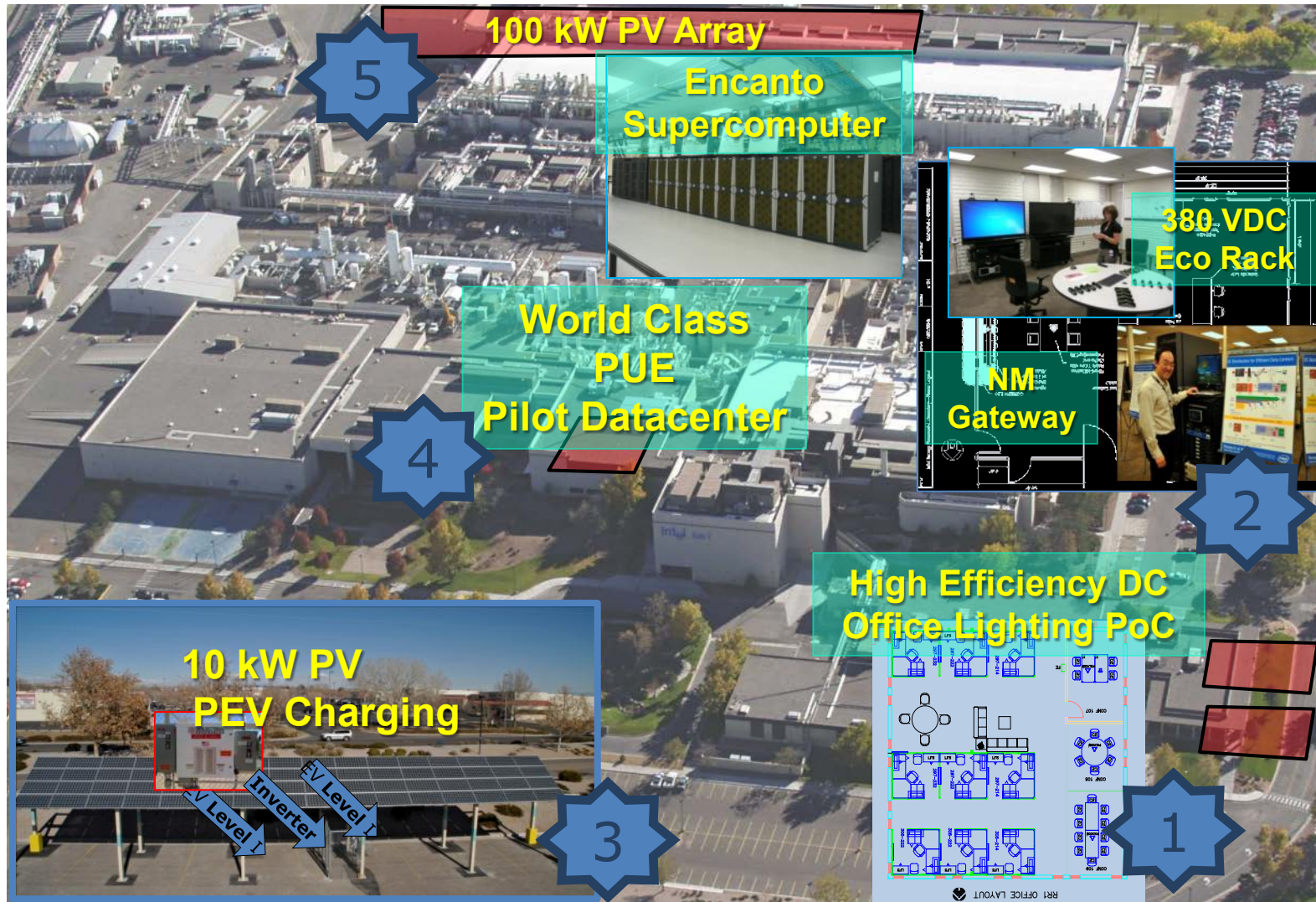
Vision: DC Microgrids Throughout Buildings



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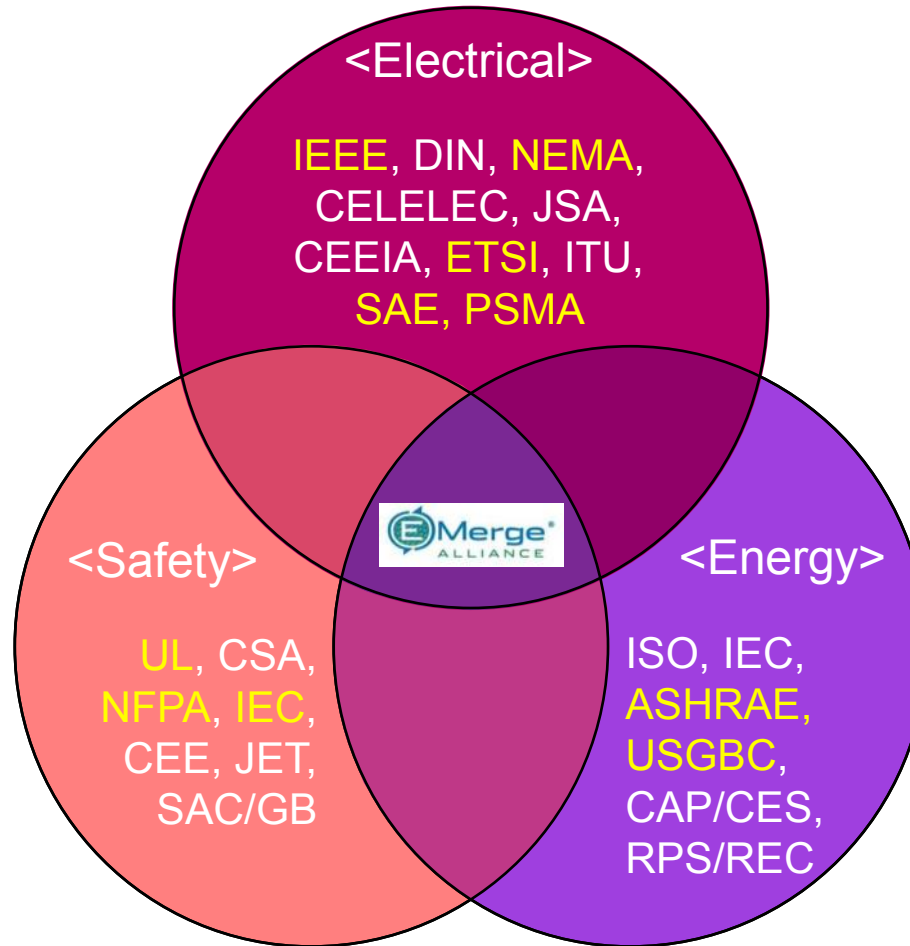
# Standards Allow Incremental Plan/Execution

## Five Discrete Projects Capture Key Elements

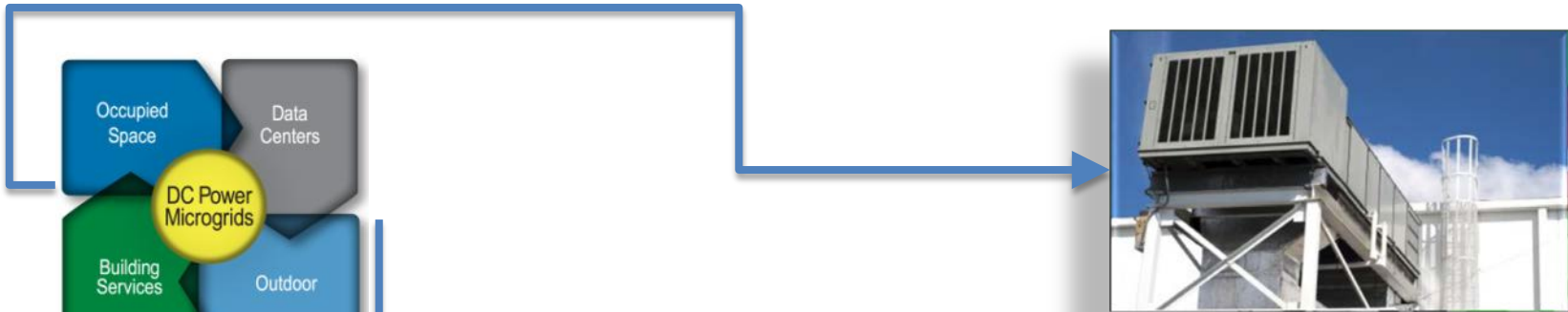


# Information/Collaboration/Harmonization

## Formal and Informal Inter-organizational Relationships







## Standards Coming Up in...

**Task Level (desktop & plug loads)**  
**Whole Building Microgrids**  
**Outdoor DC / Electric Vehicle Charging**  
**Building Services (HVAC)**



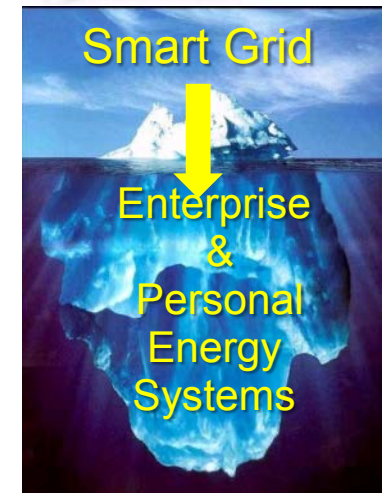
# DC - The Power to Change the World

- **Biggest transformation since the PC, Internet & Cell Phone**

- Electric grid is transforming
- Government regulation, incentives
- Imperative to “save the planet”
- New devices and sources predominantly dc

- **Opportunities - Goals**

- EMerge Alliance as a catalyst
- Focus on the Edge and work toward the middle
- *Microgrids – make DC and AC both a big part of the solution set*
- Accelerate the transition – pull 2030 into this decade
- Resource 1.5B people without power world-wide



**Enernet: DOING FOR POWER WHAT THE INTERNET DID FOR INFORMATION NETWORKING**





# THANK YOU!

Thanks to the following organizations who helped make this presentation possible...



**Microgrid RD&D Workshop**  
**October 3, 2012**

